

March 18, 2013

Ms. Heather B. Navarro, Esq.
Executive Director
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
6267 Delmar Blvd. 2E
University City, MO 63130

Dear Ms. Navarro:

I received your request asking for EPA to assist in the convening of a Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Missouri. The request also makes reference to the MCE interest in a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) and an interest in pursuing an application for an EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG).

The West Lake Landfill Superfund Site is unique and complex in the arena of Superfund sites within region 7. EPA appreciates your interest in furthering the communication process at the site.

Here is the definition/background of each of the tools you inquired about in your letter:

Community Advisory Group (CAG):

A CAG is a group made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. To the extent possible, membership should reflect the composition of the community near the site (Bridgeton, Earth City, etc.) and the diversity of racial, ethnic, and economic interests in the community. **At least half of the CAG members should be members of the local community, and should be drawn from among residents and owners of residential property near the site.** I am attaching a link to the EPA guidance that supports CAGs.

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag/whatis.htm>

I would be more than happy to assist you with forming a CAG.

Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA):

A TANA is a newly-developed tool used by, and recommended for, the internal EPA team (i.e., Project Manager, CIC) to assess what the impacted community's needs are. I am attaching a link to the EPA guidance that supports TANAs.

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/pdfs/toolkit/tana.pdf>

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG):

A TAG provides financial support to a community group so the group can pay for technical advisors to interpret and explain: technical reports; site conditions; and EPA's proposed cleanup

proposals and decisions. Additional supporting information is contained in EPA's TAG guidance, with the link below:

http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/download/quick-fs_8-12-08.pdf

I have also included with this response a TAG Application package link for you to review, download, and complete. Once EPA receives your completed package (either by e-mail or regular mail), an ad will be published in the local newspaper informing the rest of the community of your intent. Other community groups that may be interested in a TAG, then have the opportunity to contact you and join your group or may submit their own Letter of Intent. For additional information on the TAG process, please contact Region 7's TAG Coordinator, Ms. Hattie Thomas, at (913) 551-7762 or by e-mail at: Thomas.hattie@epa.gov.

EPA has offered to provide additional information on the TAG process throughout the history of the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site, as witnessed in many of its Fact Sheets and during public meetings.

In closing, EPA appreciates your interest and your willingness to be an active part of the Superfund process.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Kring
Public Affairs Specialist/Local Elected Officials Liaison